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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT NO.

information report

CD NO.

COUNTRY

Albania

DATE DISTR. 22 Dec. 1949

SUBJECT

v.

Alleged Replacement of General Hoxha by General Shehu

NO. OF PAGES 1

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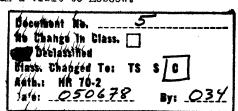
SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO

25X1X

DATE OF INFO

25X1A

Comment: An offort is being made to ascertain the truth of this report, as well as any details regarding the recent visit of Premier Hoxha to Moscow. In this connection, your attention as directed to State Department cable , 2974, dated 30 November 1949, which suggested that Hoxha's new military title (promoted from Colonel General to General of the Army on 26 November) might be the first step in a precautionary move on the part of the USSR to strengthen her control ever Albania, preparatory to sonding a high-ranking Soviet officer to Albania. An article in the New York Herald Tribune, dated 13 December 1949 from Belgrade, pointed out that Hoxha had not returned to Albania for the allimportant Independence Day Communist celebration on 29 November; the dominant figure at the ceremony was Major General Mehnet Shehu. This same article states, in part, that according to reports from Communist circles in Tirana, "in party offices pictures of General Shehu are going up on the walls and that in a few buildings those of General Hoxha are being removed". In addition, FBIB report of 19 December relayed the French Press Service bulletin that Hoxha had returned on 15 December 1949 from his trip to Moscow, on which he had been accompanied by the Englet Minister to Tirana. Varied conjectures were given as to the reasons for his trip, but nothing to indicate a fall from favor with the USSR. FBIB report \$243 of 19 December 1949 recorded an Albanian broadcast which stated that, on 18 December, General Hoxha had granted a Parewell audienco to the Hungarian Minister, and finally a spokesman of the Albanian Lagation in Belgrade stated on 20 Docember that General Howha had returned to Tirana from a visit to Moscow.





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